



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

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2005 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 2005 **all wheat** crop rose 12 percent from 2004 to \$696.5 million. All wheat production was up 11 percent from last year, but the season average price decreased \$0.01 per bushel. The preliminary 2005 season average price for all wheat was \$3.60 per bushel compared with \$3.61 last season.

The value of Montana's **winter wheat** crop jumped 45 percent from last year to \$330.8 million, due to increased production and price. The preliminary season average price was \$0.09 higher than last year at \$3.50 per bushel. **Spring wheat's** value of production was down 6 percent from 2004 to \$306.0 million. The season average price increased \$0.06 per bushel to \$3.75. **Durum wheat's** season average price dropped \$0.21 from 2004 to \$3.65 per bushel. The value of the durum wheat crop was \$59.8 million, down 14 percent from 2004.

The value of Montana's **oat** crop dropped

20 percent from 2004 to \$3.2 million due to a decrease in production from the previous year. The season average price was up \$0.05 to \$1.75 per bushel. Total value of production for **barley** was estimated at \$111.7 million, down 20 percent from the previous year due to a drop in production. The 2005 season average price, at \$2.85, was unchanged from 2004. **Corn for grain** value of production for 2005 was estimated at \$6.0 million dollars, up 16 percent from 2004. The average price per bushel decreased \$0.02 to \$2.40.

Montana's value of production for **flaxseed** more than doubled from 2004 to \$5.7 million dollars in 2005, due to an increase in production. The season average price per bushel dropped \$1.74 from last year to \$6.20. Canola values were published for the first time in 2005 with value of production at \$1.9 million with the season average price per cwt at \$9.00. **Dry edible beans** value of production was estimated at \$4.8 million, down 41 percent from 2004 due to lower prices and slightly lower production. The average price fell \$11.70 per cwt to \$17.00 per cwt.

Value of production for **dry edible peas** in Montana, at \$10.1 million, jumped 36 percent above the 2004 value of \$7.5 million due to sharply increased production. The average price per cwt decreased \$1.29 to \$4.62. **Austrian winter peas** value of production for the 2005 crop jumped to \$1.5 million from \$1.0 million in 2004. The average price per cwt was \$9.42, down \$0.68 from last year. **Lentils** value of production jumped to \$20.7 million from

\$15.2 million in 2004 due to a large increase in production. The average price decreased \$4.00 to \$11.10 per cwt.

Montana's value of production for **potatoes** was \$31.2 million, a 17 percent increase from the previous year due to higher prices. The average price was \$9.10 per cwt, \$1.60 above 2004. **Sugar beets** value of production for 2004 is estimated at \$46.1 million, down 18 percent from the previous year. The season average price dropped \$2.20 per ton from 2003 to \$40.80 per ton.

The 2005 season average price for **all hay** decreased \$4.50 from last year to \$71.50 per ton. The value of production was up 16 percent to \$414.2 million due to increased production. **Alfalfa hay's** 2005 season average price was estimated at \$72.00, down \$5.00 per ton from last year and **other hay's** season average price decreased \$1.50 to \$68.50.

2005 Alfalfa Seed Production

Alfalfa seed production for 2005 was estimated at 2.5 million pounds, up 14% from the 2004 production. Harvested acreage at 6,100 was up 300 acres from last year's acreage of 5,800 acres. The Montana average yield was estimated at 413 pounds per acre, up from the 382 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 450 pounds per acre, down from 532 pounds in 2004, and non-irrigated yields averaged 224 pounds per acre, up 151 pounds from last year. (continued on next page)

Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield and Production by District, 2005

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	800	300	240,000	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Northeast	300	550	165,000	300	550	165,000	0	0	0
South Central	3,900	470	1,833,000	3,500	497	1,740,000	400	233	93,000
Southeast	800	261	209,000	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other Districts 1/	300	240	72,000	1,300	300	390,000	600	219	131,000
Montana	6,100	413	2,519,000	5,100	450	2,295,000	1,000	224	224,000

1/ Data been confided and combined with "Other Districts" to prevent the disclosure of individual information.

2005 Alfalfa Seed Production (continued from page one)

Producers used an average of 3.2 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre on all acres harvested for alfalfa seed in 2005, down 0.6 gallons from a year ago. Leaf cutter bees were used on 44% of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 3.3 gallons per acre and 24% of the reported non-irrigated acres. Alfalfa seed growers who utilized leaf cutter bees produced an average of 37% more seed per acre than those that did not use bees to pollinate their crop.

Proprietary varieties made up 74% of this year's production, common uncertified varieties accounted for 25% of the production and common certified varieties represented 1%.

The average price received for the 2005 crop was \$1.13 per pound, up 14 cents from last year's average price.

Small Grain County Estimates for 2005 Now Available

The 2005 crop year county estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated crops and non-irrigated crops. Non-irrigated wheat and barley crops are further divided into cropping practices for acres that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates only have irrigated and non-irrigated practices. These estimates are available on our website at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/> or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.1 million head on February 1, 2006. The inventory was 7 percent above February 1, 2005 and 9 percent above February 1, 2004.

Placements in feedlots during January

totaled 2.20 million, 16 percent above 2005 and 25 percent above 2004. Net placements were 2.12 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 530,000, 600-699 pounds were 447,000, 700-799 pounds were 702,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 520,000.

U.S. and Canadian January Cattle Inventory Up 1 Percent

This publication is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on January 27, 2006.

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 111.9 million head on January 1, 2006, up 1 percent from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 48.6 million head, was up 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2006 totaled 97.1 million head, 2 percent above the 95.4 million on January 1, 2005 and 2 percent above the 94.9 million two years ago.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of January 1, 2006, totaled 14.8 million head, down 2 percent from the 15.1 million on January 1, 2005, but 1 percent above the 14.7 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 6.3 million, was down 1 percent from the 6.4 million on January 1, 2005, but 4 percent above the 6.1 million from two years ago.

January 2006 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2006, up 1 percent from December 2005 and up 21 percent from January 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, up 300 head from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,142 pounds dropped by 5 pounds from last year.

During January there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, down 100 head from a year

ago. The average live weight, at 246 pounds, rose 6 pounds from last year. January sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, unchanged from January 2005. The average live weight dropped 4 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.89 billion pounds in January, up 7 percent from the 3.65 billion pounds produced in January 2005.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 5 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.5 million pounds, 6 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 55,700 head, down 18 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was 39 pounds above last year, at 368 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.92 million head, 5 percent above January 2005. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 273 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.2 million pounds, was up 12 percent from January 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 223,700 head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from January a year ago.

January U.S. Milk Production Up 5.4 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during January totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 5.4 percent from January 2005. December production, at 13.6 billion pounds, was up 4.1 percent from December 2004.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,711 pounds for January, 68 pounds above January 2005.

The number of cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.19 million head, 103,000 head more than January 2005, and 11,000 head more than December 2005. (continued on page three)

January Milk Production (continued from page two)

The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2005 was 177 billion pounds, 3.5 percent above 2004. Revisions to 2004 production increased the annual total 129 million pounds. Revised 2005 production was up 0.3 percent or 498 million pounds from last month's publication.

Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 19,576 pounds for 2005, 609 pounds above 2004. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 19.1 percent from 1996.

The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2005 was 9.04 million head, up 3.2 percent from 2004. The average number of milk cows was revised up 2,000 head for 2004, and up 7,000 head for 2005.

February 1, 2006 Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 3.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2006, down 1 percent from the previous year. This number represents 96 percent of the 2005 potato crop production.

The 13 major potato States held 188 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2006, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below February 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 50 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 9 percent round white, 2 percent long white (Shepody), and 87 percent russets, with a smaller percentage of reds and round whites but a larger percentage of russets than a year ago for comparable States.

Disappearance of 185 million cwt from the start of harvest to February 1, is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 18.1 million cwt, is down 17 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 96.5 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing

decreased 3 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 7 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 19.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from both last year and the same date in 2004.

Western States held 136 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, down 4 percent from last year. Both Idaho's and Colorado's potato stocks are down 13 percent from last year. Montana's potato sheds stored 1 percent less than in 2005 and California's stocks decreased 39 percent from last year. Oregon's potato stocks are up 23 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 10 percent more than last season.

Central States accounted for 40.1 million cwt of potato stocks on February 1, down 17 percent from last year for comparable States. Wisconsin's potato stocks decreased 4 percent from last year, Minnesota's stocks are down 12 percent from 2005, and stocks in North Dakota are 41 percent below February 1, 2005. Michigan potato sheds stored 6 percent more than last year.

Eastern States stored 11.7 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, down 5 percent from last year for comparable States. Maine's potato sheds held 10 percent less than last year, while New York's potato stocks increased 42 percent from a year ago.

January U.S. Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.72 billion during January 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.62 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The number of layers during January 2006 averaged 349 million, up slightly from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,211 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2006, totaled 349 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.90 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2006, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from February 1, 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2006 totaled 35.4 million, down 7 percent from January 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.5 million on February 1, 2006 down 2 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 188,000 during January 2006, up 20 percent from January 2005.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during January 2006 totaled 804 million, up 1 percent from January 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 661 million on February 1, 2006, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.83 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2006, up 6 percent from January 2005.

U.S. Hired Workers Up 3 Percent, Wage Rates Up 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 796,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. (continued on back page)

**U.S. Hired Workers Up 3 Percent,
Wage rates Up 3 Percent from a Year
Ago** (continued from page three)

Despite very wet weather in the Pacific region, continued expansion in the nursery and greenhouse industries increased the demand for hired workers. In the Corn Belt I region, warm temperatures and midweek rains caused extremely muddy conditions in feedlots, corrals, and pastures, stressing livestock and increasing the need for hired workers. Unseasonably warm, dry weather in the Delta region allowed field and farm activities to progress rapidly. Also, many producers were still cleaning up the damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. In the Northeast II region, above normal temperatures allowed some preparations for spring planting to begin, heightening the demand for hired workers.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in California and in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. In California, heavy rains and flooding for two weeks prior to the reference week limited field activity in central and northern areas. Also, tight security at the Mexican border and strong competition from the higher paying construction industry continued to cause farm worker shortages. Thus, fewer workers were hired during the reference week. Extremely dry conditions in the Southern Plains region caused many livestock producers to liquidate their herds, lessening the demand for hired workers. In the Appalachian II and Northern Plains regions, the unseasonably warm weather decreased the need for supplemental feeding. Therefore, fewer livestock workers were

needed.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt I, Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Northeast II and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Corn Belt I and II regions, the warm weather led to considerable movement of grain to market, heightening the demand for highly paid truck drivers and machine operators. The higher wages in the Southeast region were due to the increased demand for highly skilled machine operators and truck drivers on livestock and poultry operations and a larger percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force. The higher wages in the Northeast II region were due to a higher than normal percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., January 9-15, 2005 & January 8-14, 2006 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Dollars per Hour								
Northeast I	9.47	10.42	9.17	8.80	9.32	9.56	10.37	11.04
Northeast II	8.47	9.89	8.76	7.79	8.62	9.29	9.66	10.56
Appalachian I	8.65	9.35	9.03	9.61	8.82	9.48	9.64	10.29
Appalachian II	8.46	8.17	8.04	9.73	8.25	8.78	9.02	9.61
Southeast	7.96	8.74	7.25	8.77	7.71	8.75	8.41	9.45
FL	8.50	8.80	8.60	8.80	8.51	8.80	9.52	9.55
Lake	9.65	10.33	9.67	9.30	9.66	9.69	10.61	10.73
Cornbelt I	9.40	11.79	8.95	9.51	9.18	10.55	10.06	11.33
Cornbelt II	9.16	9.61	10.28	10.69	10.07	10.52	10.63	11.50
Delta	9.52	7.90	7.63	8.40	8.97	8.12	9.29	8.68
Northern Plains	10.26	10.59	8.60	9.25	9.20	9.75	9.82	10.31
Southern Plains	8.01	7.53	9.35	8.74	8.75	8.17	9.56	8.89
Mountain I	9.42	8.68	8.82	8.17	8.95	8.27	9.76	8.99
Mountain II	7.37	8.12	9.65	8.64	8.83	8.42	9.93	9.32
Mountain III	7.70	8.02	8.41	9.12	8.02	8.40	8.61	9.35
Pacific	9.32	9.36	9.90	10.47	9.39	9.48	10.33	10.25
CA	8.56	9.12	9.93	10.25	8.86	9.29	9.82	10.36
HI 3/	9.94	10.14			9.98	10.27	11.52	11.95
US 4/	8.71	9.15	9.20	9.25	8.90	9.19	9.78	10.11

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates
Chicken Inventory and Annual
Egg Production
Honey Production
Ag Prices Received
Wheat and Barley Movement

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